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Title: Reuse Plan for NRDL Buildings

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18 SEP 1951

From: Director, U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory
To: Commander, San Francisco Naval Shipyard
Attn: Industrial Engineering Officer (Code 140)

Subj: Future plans for buildings now occupied by USNRDL

Ref: (a) BuShips disp 102200Z of Sept 1951
(b) SFNS disp 111756Z of Sept 1951

1. Reference (a) requested the Shipyard to nominate an officer to represent the Shipyard and the Laboratory before the forthcoming hearing of a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee on the justification for the ultimate facility for the U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory. Reference (b) nominated me to represent both activities. Subsequent conversations with officers in the Bureau of Ships have indicated that it is the Bureau's desire that we be prepared to state definitely what disposition is to be made of the buildings presently occupied by the Laboratory after the proposed Building 815 is in operation. Conversations with your office have indicated that the Shipyard's plans are as follows:

a. Buildings 506, 507, 508, and 510 were originally constructed for, and used as, barracks facilities for enlisted men on ships under overhaul at the San Francisco Naval Shipyard. At the time they were originally made available to this activity, the workload of the Shipyard was such as to make them in excess of immediate needs. Since the outbreak of the war in Korea, the need for additional barracks space has been gradually increasing due to (a) the increased workload of the Shipyard, and (b) the necessity of housing the crews of ships going into commission. In the event of mobilization, it is expected that the workload of the Shipyard will materially increase and barracks facilities will be required for housing the crews of ships under overhaul or conversion. This need will be so immediate that it is doubtful if we could wait for construction of other facilities to fulfill this purpose. On a long range basis, it is the Shipyard's plan to relocate the barracks and subsidiary facilities such as the Ship's Exchange and the Theater to another part of the Yard. So far as can be seen at this time, it will be necessary to keep these buildings in readiness pending the time that the long range plan can be implemented.

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b. Building 517 was originally constructed as a brig to be used in conjunction with the barracks activities in the vicinity. After the war it was condemned as sub-standard. The reason for its retention after being vacated by the Radiological Defense Laboratory, was substantially the same as the buildings mentioned in the preceding subparagraphs. It is probable that it will need conversion to meet modern standards for brigs in the event of mobilization.

c. Building 520 is in about the same category of the others mentioned above. The Laboratory occupies the second floor of the dental quarters, and the situation at present is that it is urgent that the Laboratory vacate at the earliest possible moment in order to make room for an expansion in the dental department which has already occurred. Two dental officers are presently without space in which to work. The backlog of patients is increasing daily.

d. Buildings 313, 313A, and 322 are occupying space which is now urgently needed by the production activities of the Yard. The triangle in which they are located is used for field storage of material and equipment belonging to Drydock No. 4. In addition, it serves as a field storage for material and structural members, either removed for ships or waiting to be installed aboard ships in the general vicinity. Such an area near drydocks and piers is absolutely essential for the efficiency of such facilities.

e. Building 351 is presently planned for conversion to an Electronics Shop. It is an industrial type building which is designed to carry a heavy floor load and it is equipped with crane facilities. Its occupancy by the Laboratory was a makeshift arrangement which has served; but it is not adaptable to the type of activity required by the Laboratory, and it should revert to use as a shop at the earliest possible date.

f. Building 351A is being considered for use, together with 351, as an Electronics Shop. That plan is at present tentative in view of the fact that the Laboratory may not vacate it. It is now known that Building 815 will have only about 190,000 square feet, whereas the requirements have been stated as 240,000 square feet minimum. I regret that we shall be unable to furnish better information on our requirements for several months.

g. Building 351B is planned as a boat shop, which is urgently needed by the Shipyard now.

h. Building 701, which was scheduled for demolition, will revert to the supply department for badly needed warehouse space.

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i. Buildings 705 and 707 will be retained by the Radiological Defense Laboratory for use by the Animal Colonies for which they were designed.

j. Buildings D-19 and D-20 will be demolished just as soon as the Laboratory can vacate them and move into 351B. The area in which they are situated is being built up at the present time into much-needed housing. There is immediate need for them to be demolished to make room for the contractor to clear the site for the buildings already under construction in this area.

k. Barge YFHX 16 will revert to its normal use as a barge when the Laboratory vacates it. In this connection, however, it is pointed out that a facility of this character is considered absolutely necessary in the San Francisco area in case it becomes necessary for any of the shipyards to decontaminate ships or waterfront land areas. It would be my recommendation that the barge be retained in substantially its present form to provide for this contingency, or at least until the need for floating craft of its type becomes acute.

2. By previous correspondence, the Shipyard has been notified by the Laboratory that the retention by the Laboratory of the following buildings will be required for the foreseeable future:

- a. 364 - Hot Cell
- b. 365 - Contiguous Change House
- c. Isotope Storage
- d. 705 & 707 - Animal Colony

3. Confirmation of the foregoing understanding is requested in order that I may present the latest thinking of the Shipyard in the forthcoming hearings.

J. L. BIRD

Prepared: J. L. Bird, Ext. 2650
Typed: T. Welch " 2665
Date: 9/18/51

CC: Code 3-140